

TEACHING ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST

Assessing and Defining Responsibility

If you were a judge, how would you assess the "responsibility" of these people for what happened in the world between 1933 and 1945? Indicate one of the following:

- 1 — Not responsible
- 2 — Minimally responsible
- 3 — Responsible
- 4 — Very responsible

- _____ 1. One of Hitler's direct subordinates, such as Heinrich Himmler or Joseph Goebbels
- _____ 2. A German who voluntarily joined Hitler's special elite, the SS
- _____ 3. A German industrialist who financially supported Hitler's rise to power and continued to support him verbally
- _____ 4. A judge who carried out Hitler's decrees for sterilization of the "mentally incompetent" and internment of "traitors"
- _____ 5. A doctor who participated in sterilization of Jews
- _____ 6. A worker in a plant making Zyklon B gas
- _____ 7. The Pope, who made no public statement against Nazi policy
- _____ 8. An industrialist who made enormous profits by producing Zyklon B gas
- _____ 9. A manufacturer who used concentration camp inmates as slave labor in his plants
- _____ 10. An American industrialist who helped arm Hitler in the 1930s
- _____ 11. A person who voluntarily joined the Nazis in the 1930s
- _____ 12. A person who agreed to publicly take the Civil Servant Loyalty Oath (swearing eternal allegiance to Adolf Hitler in 1934)
- _____ 13. A person who complied with the law excluding Jews from economic and social life
- _____ 14. A person who regularly, enthusiastically attended Hitler rallies

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- _____ 15. A person who always respectfully gave the "Heil Hitler" salute
- _____ 16. A person who served as a concentration camp guard
- _____ 17. A person who turned the lever to allow the gas into the chambers
- _____ 18. A driver of the trains that went to the concentration camps
- _____ 19. A diplomat for the Nazi government
- _____ 20. The American government, which limited emigration of Jews to the United States in the 1930s
- _____ 21. The "little guy" who claimed "he doesn't get involved in politics" and thus went about his business as quietly as he could in the Hitler regime
- _____ 22. The soldier who carried out orders to roust Jews from their homes for "evacuation and resettlement"
- _____ 23. The German couple who took up residence in a home evacuated by Jews
- _____ 24. The non-Jews who took over a store just abandoned by Jews
- _____ 25. The German who refused all pleas to participate in hiding and smuggling of Jews
- _____ 26. The policeman who helped round up escaping Jews
- _____ 27. A teacher who taught Nazi propaganda
- _____ 28. Children who joined the Hitler Youth
- _____ 29. Parents who sent or allowed their children to attend Hitler Youth meetings
- _____ 30. The Protestant clergyman who gave to the Nazis lists of members of his congregation who were "non-Aryan"



Adapted from Flaim, Richard F., and Edwin W. Reynolds Jr., eds., *The Holocaust and Genocide* (New York: Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, 1983).

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Homework: Put yourself in the shoes of the lawyers at the Nuremberg Trials after WWII (the people who tried those responsible for the Holocaust). You can realistically put everyone in Germany on trial. Write a ~~one~~ page response explaining who you would/would not put on trial and why.